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WV Correctional Population Forecast: 2005 Update

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The West Virginia correctional population continues to increase, but the average rate of growth is less than what was observed in the 1990s. Since 2000, the growth in new commitments has declined to an average annual growth rate of 5.6%. This expansion in the correctional population represents approximately one-third the average annual growth rate experienced in the mid to late 1990s (15.0%).

In spite of the more moderate levels of growth in recent years, however, WV continues to be recognized as having one of the fastest growing prison populations in the nation. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) "Prisoner's in 2004" report, WV was ranked third in the nation with an average annual growth rate of 8.2% between 1995 and 2004.

Forecasting trends and changes in the correctional population have become an important tool to assist policy makers in the state with insight into the issue of prison overcrowding. The purpose of this report is to provide an update as to the performance of the current 2004-2014 correctional population forecast. This performance evaluation is designed to examine the accuracy of the

forecasted population in relation to the known, actual population between January 2004 and December 2005.

In addition to assessing the accuracy of the forecast, it is imperative to also examine how the correctional population has grown. Thus, it is necessary to monitor the current status of the correctional population as well as developing trends in commitments and admissions, maximum sentence lengths, releases, and parole hearing outcomes. This report begins with a discussion on the current accuracy of the 2004-2014 forecast.

Performance Evaluation, 2004-2014 Forecast

From January 2004 to December 2005 the population projections have closely paralleled the actual prison population. During this forecast period, the difference between the forecasted and actual population of inmates averaged 7 more inmates than was expected. This corresponded to an absolute average difference of 0.1% over this time period.

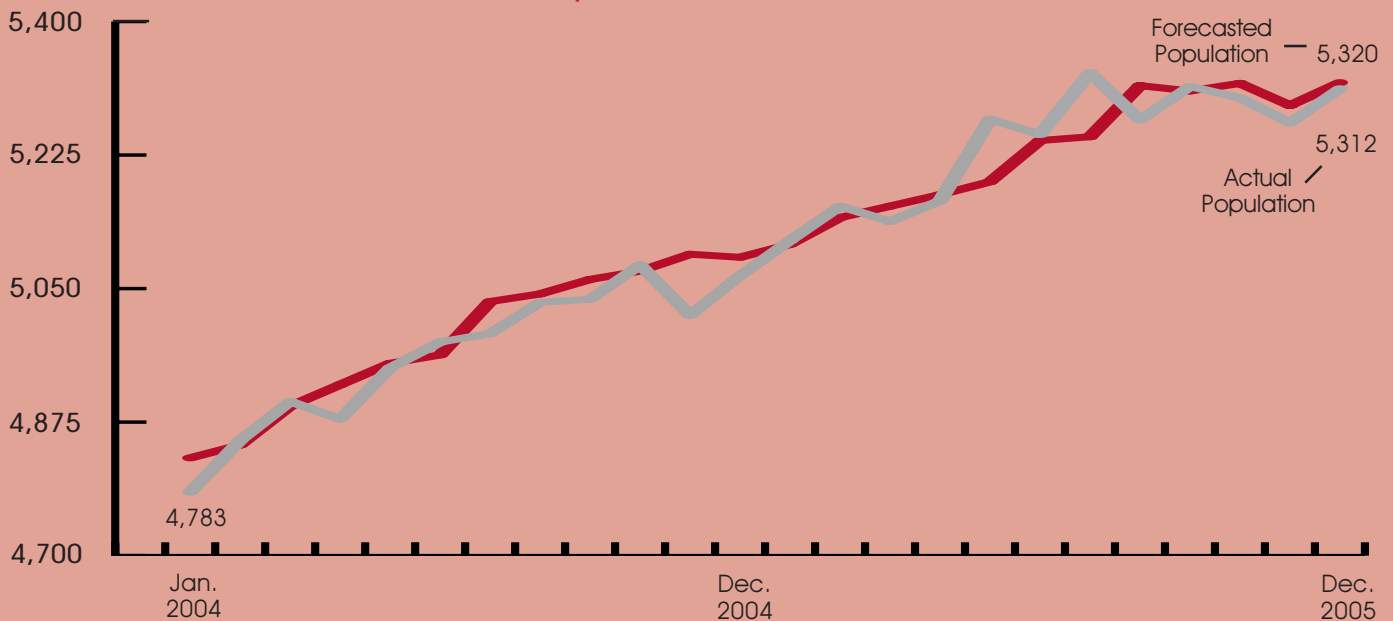
Graphs 1 and 2 display the differences between the forecasted and actual populations in terms of actual population numbers and absolute percent differences. As

State of West Virginia
Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice Services

Report Highlights

- * West Virginia's state prison population reached 5,312 at the end of 2005.
- * The end-of-year 2005 prison population was 0.2% less than the population projections established in the 2004-2014 correctional forecast report.
- * The state prison population is forecasted to continue growing at a rate of 3.2% per year on average, reaching 6,010 inmates in 2009.
- * The average annual rate of growth in new commitments was 5.6% between 2000 and 2005, substantially lower than the 15.0% observed in the mid to late 1990s.
- * In 2004, 7 in 10 inmates were admitted to DOC facilities for nonviolent offenses.
- * Between 1998 and 2004, admissions to DOC facilities for property crimes have increased, while admissions for all violent offenses have declined.
- * The average maximum sentence length declined for most violent offenses between 1998 and 2004, but simultaneously increased for most nonviolent offenses.
- * Violent offenders constituted 55.9% of the confined prison population in 2004 and 2005.
- * The number of inmates released annually from DOC custody increased by 68.8% between 2000 and 2005.
- * Parole hearings have increased by 30.5% over the past four years, from 2,259 in 2002 to 2,947 in 2005.
- * The parole grant increased by 10.0% between 2004 and 2005.
- * Of the 2,157 inmates released from DOC custody in 2005, 48.6% were released to parole supervision.

Graph 1
Actual versus Forecasted Populations
January 2004 - December 2005



Source: DOC End-of-Month Population Counts and 2004 Simulated Forecast

shown in Graph 1, there were 5,312 inmates in the actual population at the end of December 2005. For this same month, the forecast estimated that 5,320 inmates would comprise the total correctional population. As a result, the forecast projected 8 more inmates in the total correctional population than actually existed in December 2005. This difference of 8 inmates translated into an absolute average difference of 0.2% between the

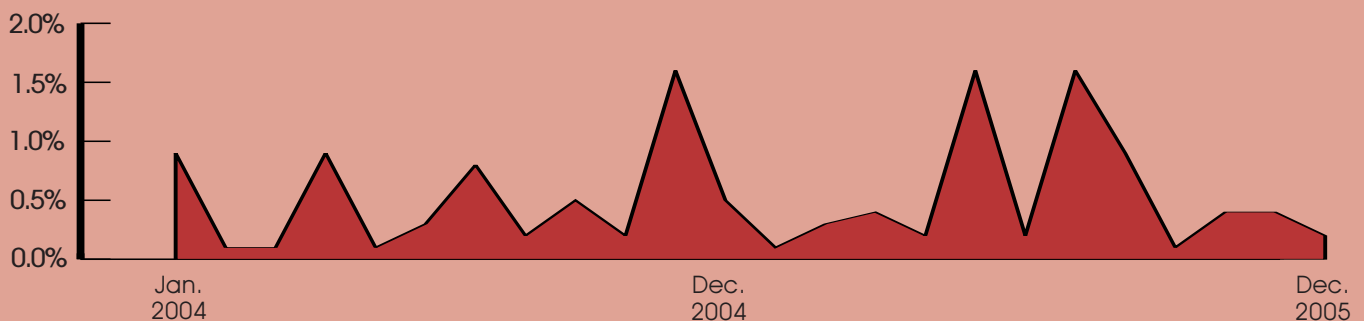
forecasted and actual prison population for the end of 2005 (see Graph 2).

As depicted in Graph 2, forecasted projections fell within plus or minus 1.6% of the actual population for any given month during this 24-month period between January 2004 and December 2005. In 2004, the percentage differences ranged from a low of 0.1% in February, March, and May to a high of 1.6% in November.

In 2005, the percentage differences ranged from a low of 0.1% in January and September to a high of 1.6% in May and July.

An additional approach for assessing the accuracy of population forecasts is to compare current populations to projections produced in previous forecasts. This type of comparison illustrates the level of error in forecast estimates over a longer period of time. Given that

Graph 2
Absolute Percent Difference between Actual and Forecasted Populations
January 2004 - December 2005



Source: DOC End-of-Month Population Counts and 2004 Simulated Forecast

forecast projections have been offered since 2000, it is possible to compare such projections over a six-year span of time.

The first correctional population forecast published by the CJSAC contained projections from 2000 to 2010. Based on the population projection contained in this initial report, the correctional population was estimated to reach 4,936 by December 2005. In comparison to current population figures, it is now apparent that the 2000 forecast underestimated the magnitude of the population growth by 7.6% over this six-year period. At the end of 2005, the actual inmate population was comprised of 5,312 prisoners or 376 additional prisoners than were estimated in 2000. These comparisons highlight the fact that population projections decrease in precision over time as well as illustrate the need for reassessing

population growth on a continual basis.

Growth of the Correctional Population

The growth of the correctional population between 1993 and 2005 is described in Graph 3. Based on end-of-year totals, the number of inmates in the correctional population increased by 151.8% between 1993 and 2005. In 1993, the correctional population consisted of 2,110 inmates. By 2005, the number of inmates in the correctional population increased to 5,312. This rate of growth corresponded to an average annual increase of 8.0% or approximately 267 additional inmates per year during this 13-year period.

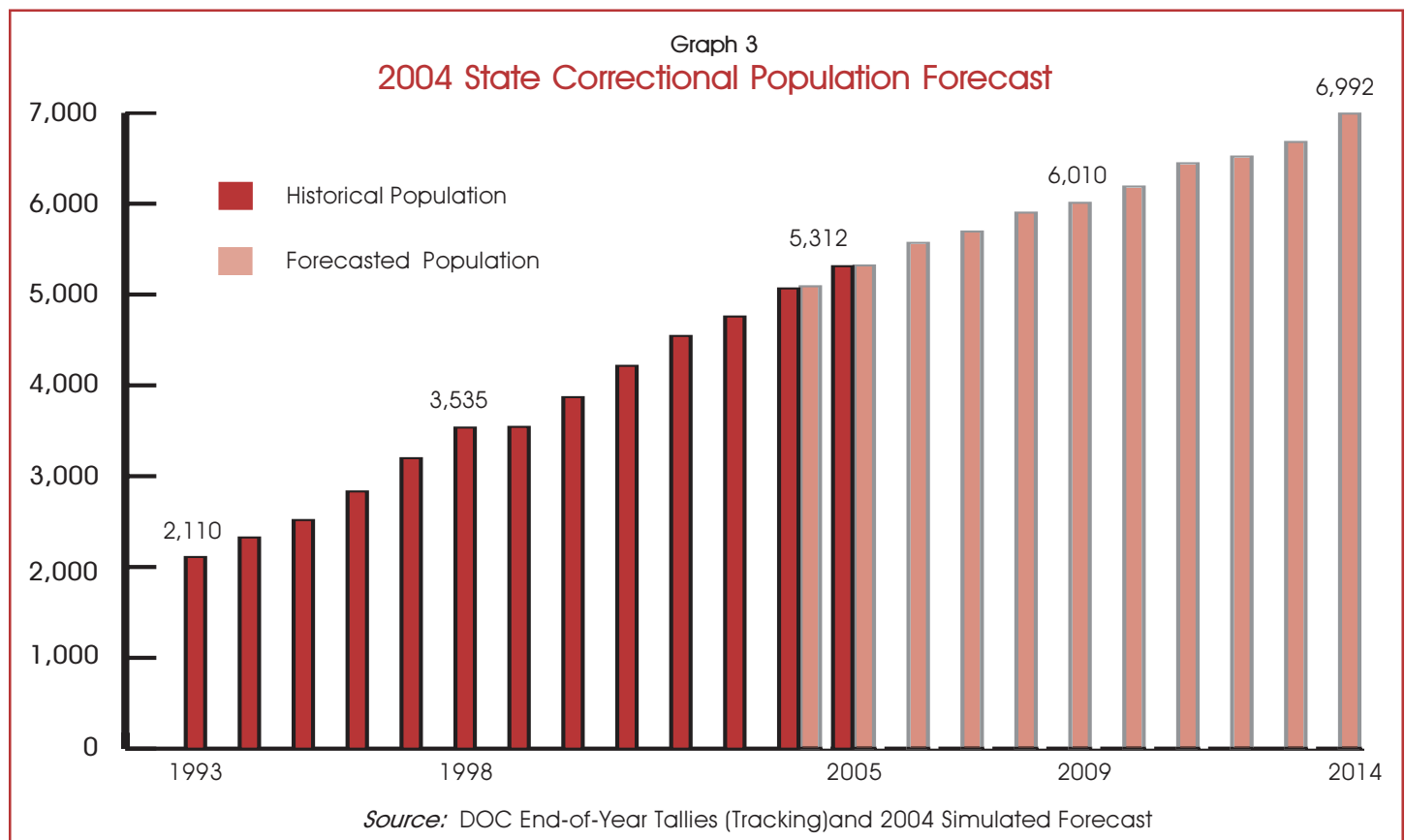
Similar to the actual population growth, current forecast estimates suggest continued growth in the correction population. The growth, however, is projected to be at a rate less than what was observed over the

previous decade. According to the 2004-2014 forecast, the correctional population is expected to continue growing at an average annual rate of 3.2% over the next decade.

The correctional population is forecasted to increase from 5,067 in 2004, to 6,010 inmates by the end of 2009, to 6,992 inmates by the end of 2014 (see Graph 3). As a result, the correctional population is projected to increase by 38.0% between 2004 and 2014. This growth corresponds to an average of 190 additional inmates per year over the next ten years.

New Commitments Increase

The number of offenders being committed to DOC custody continues to increase. However, the rate of growth is much smaller than what was observed in the mid to late 1990s (see Graph 4). The term *commitments* refers to all offenders that are ordered by the court to the

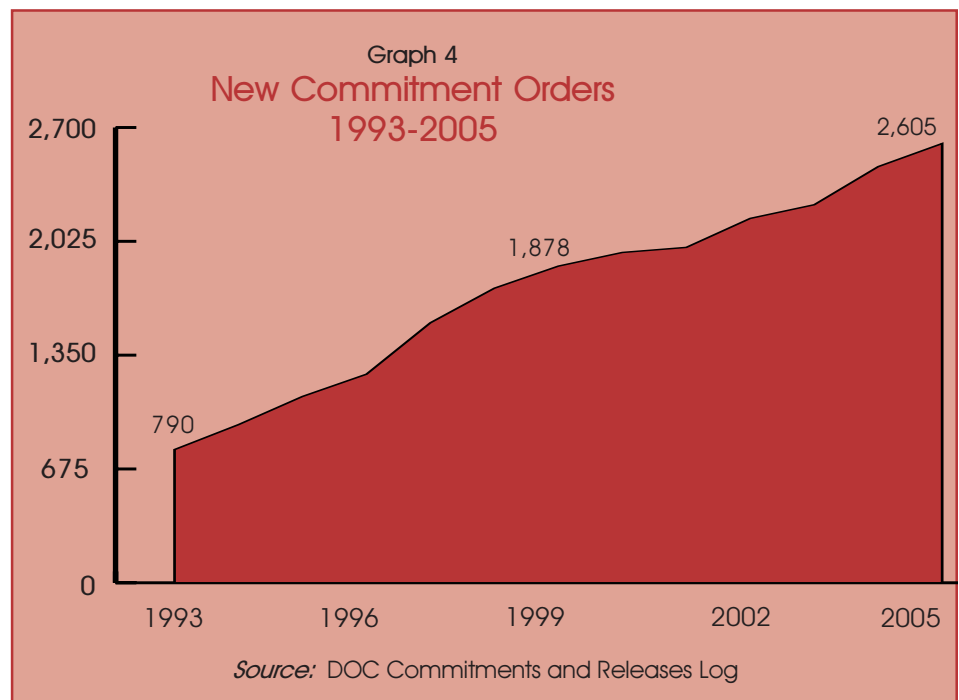


custody of the Division of Corrections (DOC). In 2005, the total number of new commitments was 2,605. This figure is up from 2,468 offenders in 2004.

As shown in Graph 4, new commitments more than doubled between 1994 and 1999 increasing from 938 in 1994 to 1,878 commitments in 1999. This increase translates into an average annual growth rate of 15.0% during this six-year period. The rate of growth in new commitments, however, has slowed since 1999. Between 2000 and 2005 new commitments increased by 33.0%, from 1,959 in 2000 to 2,605 in 2005. This increase resulted in an average annual growth rate of 5.6% or roughly one-third of the growth that was observed in the mid to late 1990s.

Admissions by Type of Offense

The percentage distribution of admissions by offense category for 1998-2004 are presented in Table 1. *Admissions*, in contrast to commitments, refer to all offenders



who are committed *and* are physically housed in a DOC facility.

Admissions figures continue to indicate that most inmates are admitted for nonviolent offenses. In 2004, roughly 7 in 10 inmates were admitted to DOC facilities for nonviolent offenses. Property and burglary offenses represented the majority of these admissions. These two

categories comprised more than one-third of the total admissions (37.5%) in 2004.

Drug (15.7%) and DUI (10.0%) offenses contained the next largest percentages of nonviolent admissions. The “other” category rounded out the nonviolent admissions at 6.9%. Thus, less than thirty percent (29.9%) of all 2004 admissions were comprised of

Table 1
Inmates Admitted by Type of Offense and Year
1998-2004

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change 03-04	% Change 98-04
Murder	7.2%	3.9%	5.1%	3.9%	3.3%	4.9%	5.7%	+0.8%	-1.5%
Sex Crimes	12.7%	11.5%	11.3%	10.6%	7.8%	8.7%	10.1%	+1.4%	-2.6%
Robbery	6.8%	5.0%	4.0%	6.0%	5.5%	6.7%	6.2%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Assault	10.0%	10.2%	9.4%	8.1%	8.0%	7.8%	7.9%	+0.1%	-2.1%
Burglary	13.6%	15.3%	15.1%	19.8%	15.0%	15.9%	16.7%	+0.8%	+3.1%
Property	15.4%	16.8%	16.1%	17.4%	20.6%	23.1%	20.8%	-2.3%	+5.4%
Drug	15.2%	14.8%	13.9%	10.9%	15.7%	15.5%	15.7%	+0.2%	+0.5%
DUI	15.2%	17.7%	18.6%	13.4%	15.3%	10.3%	10.0%	-0.3%	-5.2%
Other	4.0%	4.7%	6.5%	9.8%	8.8%	7.1%	6.9%	-0.2%	+2.9%

Source: NCRP Prisoner Admission Reports

Note: Anthony Center inmates are not included in these figures, in order to allow for a historical comparison. See Table 5 page 10 for total number of admissions for 1998-2004, excluding Anthony Center. There were no diagnostic inmates in the 2003 or 2004 figures due to constraints on data availability. Percentages may not total to 100.0% due to rounding.

offenders sentenced for violent offenses. The largest percentage of violent offense admissions were for sex crimes at 10.1% followed by assault (7.9%), robbery (6.2%), and murder (5.7%). The murder category represented the smallest percentage of all admissions in 2004.

Between 2003 and 2004, the largest percent increase occurred in the sex crimes category. There was a 1.4% increase in offenders admitted for a sex crime. This category was followed by increases in admissions for murder and burglary at 0.8%, respectively. The assault, drug, and “other” categories remained relatively stable at +/-0.2%.

Long term data suggests a trend toward the admission of a greater proportion of inmates for nonviolent offenses. Table 1 displays the percent change in admissions over a seven-year period. A comparison of 1998 and 2004 admission figures by offense reveals an increase in admissions for

property offenses, while all violent offenses have experienced a decline. Property offenses (including burglary) increased by 8.5% while admissions for violent offenses (including murder, sex crimes, robbery, and assault) declined by 6.8%. The largest increase occurred in the property category at 5.4%, followed by burglary (3.1%) and “other” offenses (2.9%). The largest decline in admissions occurred in the DUI category at 5.2%, followed by sex crimes (2.6%) and assault (2.1%).

Average Maximum Sentences by Type of Offense

Table 2 describes the average maximum sentence length by offense and year for admissions to DOC facilities from 1998-2004. The figures indicate that the average maximum sentence length has decreased substantially for many violent offenses during the past decade. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in the

average maximum sentence length for burglary, property, and other nonviolent offenses.

With the exception of assault, it is clear that violent offenses are given the longest sentences (see Table 2). In 2004, offenders sentenced to DOC for sex crimes received the longest sentences at an average of 239 months. Offenders sentenced for murder and robbery received maximum sentences that averaged 235 and 234 months. Among all violent offenses, those sentenced for assault were given the shortest average maximum sentences at approximately 95 months.

Offenders sentenced to DOC for burglary, property, and drug offenses were also given rather lengthy sentences. Offenders sentenced for burglary offenses received sentences that averaged 184 months. Property and drug offenses received sentences that averaged 149 and 133 months, respectively. The shortest average

Table 2
Average Maximum Sentences (in Months) by
Type of Offense and Admission Year

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>2003-2004</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>1998-2004</u>
	<i>(In Months)</i>								
Murder	287.8	246.3	258.0	247.4	384.9	245.4	234.7	-10.7	-53.1
Sex Crimes	232.8	228.3	257.4	237.7	181.0	245.2	239.3	-5.9	+6.5
Robbery	260.3	239.0	447.0	244.7	294.4	239.7	234.1	-5.6	-26.2
Assault	138.9	103.1	103.6	108.8	103.3	96.2	95.1	-1.1	-43.8
Burglary	168.6	167.9	191.8	215.8	198.4	188.5	184.2	-4.3	+15.6
Property	139.5	136.9	138.3	142.9	142.9	144.5	148.5	+4.0	+9.0
Drug	125.8	124.5	121.7	123.5	128.9	127.5	133.4	+5.9	+7.6
DUI	39.6	37.6	41.3	45.9	45.8	42.3	46.1	+3.8	+6.5
Other	88.4	67.7	63.8	70.8	73.4	54.1	57.7	+3.6	-30.7

Source: NCRP Prisoner Admission Reports

Notes: Anthony Center and diagnostic populations are not included in this table. Maximum sentences that exceeded 1,000 months or more were excluded based on historical methodology. As a result, 41 cases were excluded from the murder category in 2004. Of these 41 cases 13 of them received 1,116 months and 28 received 1,152 months as the average maximum sentence. In the sex crimes category 3 cases were excluded. All 3 cases were for first degree sexual abuse with a second offense of sexual abuse by a parent/guardian. One of these cases had an average maximum sentence of 2,640 months, while the other two cases had sentences of 2,400 and 1,560 months respectively. The robbery category had 1 case excluded, with a sentence of 1,140 months for robbery with possession of a firearm. Lastly, the assault category had 4 cases excluded. All of these cases were for kidnapping offenses with sentences of 1,152 months. See Table 5, for total number of admissions for 1998-2004, excluding Anthony Center.

sentence length was given to DUI offenders at 46 months.

More than half of all offense categories experienced a reduction in average maximum sentence lengths between 2003 and 2004. All violent offenses as well as burglary offenses had reductions in sentence lengths. The largest decline occurred in the murder category, with a decrease of approximately 11 months. Sex crimes and robbery offenses both decreased by an average of nearly 6 months. The average maximum sentence length for burglary offenses decreased by approximately 4 months. Offenders sentenced for assault experienced the smallest reduction at roughly 1 month during this period.

The average maximum sentence length increased for all of the remaining nonviolent offenses. Offenders sentenced for drug offenses received the largest increase in sentence length at nearly 6 months. The property, DUI, and “other” categories followed at approximately 4 months.

Nevertheless, sentence lengths over the past several years have declined considerably for most violent offenses. With the exception of sex crimes, sentence lengths for all other violent offenses have fallen since 1998. The largest reductions in average sentences occurred for murder and assault offenses. Sentence lengths for murder declined by more than 4 years or nearly 53 months. Meanwhile, sentence lengths declined more than three and one-half years or 44 months for offenders serving time for assault. Sentences for robbery followed with a reduction of over two years or 26 months.

Inmates sentenced for sex crimes represented the only group of violent

<p>Table 3</p> <p>Confined Inmate Population by Type of Offense and Year</p>					
	2004 (N = 3,942)		2005 (N = 3,808)		% Change 2004-2005
	N	%	N	%	
Murder	722	18.3%	682	17.9%	-0.4%
Sex Crimes	822	20.9%	769	20.2%	-0.7%
Robbery	382	9.7%	349	9.2%	-0.5%
Assault	276	7.0%	329	8.6%	+1.6%
Burglary	540	13.7%	530	13.9%	+0.2%
Property	541	13.7%	547	14.4%	+0.7%
Drug	327	8.3%	315	8.3%	0.0%
DUI	127	3.2%	106	2.8%	-0.4%
Other	205	5.2%	181	4.8%	-0.4%

Source: DOC Inmate Management Information System (IMIS) for 6/30/04 and 8/31/05

Notes: Diagnostic inmates are not included in these figures, due to historical methodology. In 2005 there was one case missing the most serious offense.

offenders to experience an increase in average maximum sentence length during this seven-year period. The sentence lengths for sex offenders in DOC custody increased at an average of 7 months between 1998 and 2004.

On the other hand, the average maximum sentence length for *all* nonviolent offenses increased during this time frame. Offenders sentenced to a DOC facility for burglary and property offenses received the largest increases in sentence length. Burglary sentences increased by more than one year at an average of 16 months. Sentences for property offenses increased by 9 months over this seven-year period. The sentence lengths for drug and DUI offenses increased between 8 and 7 months, respectively.

The “other” category, which includes a host of miscellaneous offenses, was the only nonviolent offense to exhibit a sentence reduction. Sentences for “other”

offenses declined by nearly two and one-half years or 31 months during this seven-year period.

Confined Population by Type of Offense

Table 3 displays the distribution of the 2004 and 2005 DOC stock population by offense. In August 2005, over one-half (55.9%) of the confined prison population was serving time for a violent offense. Less than one-third (28.3%) were housed in DOC facilities for property offenses, including burglary. Slightly more than eight percent (8.3%) were confined for a drug offense. The remainder of the confined population was comprised of “other” (4.8%) and DUI (2.8%) offenders.

In comparison to the 2004 confined population, violent offenders constituted the same proportion of inmates at 55.9% (see Table 3). Only slight decreases were observed for murder, sex crimes, and robbery.

As a proportion of the population, assault offenders increased by 1.6%.

In terms of property offenses, very small percentage increases were observed for burglary (0.2%) and property (0.7%) offenders. The percentage of inmates confined for drug offenses remained the same between 2004 and 2005. Both the DUI and “other” offenders decreased by 0.4%.

DOC Releases

Graph 5 illustrates inmates released from DOC custody between 1998 and 2005. Since 2000, the number of inmates released from DOC custody has continually increased. The number of inmates released grew from 1,278 in 2000 to 2,157 in 2005. This translated into a 68.8% increase in the number of inmates released from DOC custody during this six-year period (see Graph 5).

According to DOC release data, the number of offenders leaving prison and being placed on parole has also

grown in recent years. A total of 773 inmates were released to parole in 2004, compared to 1,048 in 2005. This represents a 35.6% increase in the number of offenders being released to parole services. In 2005, 48.6% of the 2,157 inmates released from DOC custody were released to parole.

Parole Hearings and Grant Rates

The WV parole board continues to hold a greater number of hearings each year. Parole board *hearings* may result in multiple outcomes including holding an inmate’s case open for further consideration, rescinding, or reinstating a parole board decision, or the granting and denying of parole to an inmate.

In 2002, the parole board considered a total of 2,259 hearings. An additional 152 hearings were held in 2003 for a total of 2,411. In subsequent years, there were even greater increases in the number of parole board hearings. Between 2003 and 2004, for instance, the number of

hearings went from 2,411 to 2,832 for an annual increase of 17.5%. As a result, an additional 421 hearings were held in 2004 compared to the previous year. In 2005, a total of 2,947 hearings took place which resulted in 115 additional hearings and a 4.1% increase between 2004 and 2005.

Table 4 displays the total number of decisions that resulted in either the granting or denying of parole to an inmate. The proportion of cases granted parole has fluctuated from year-to-year since 2000. For most years, roughly one-third of cases were granted parole. However, the lowest percentage of cases granted parole occurred in 2001 (24.5%) while the highest percentage occurred in 2005 (43.0%) (see Table 4).

A substantial increase in the number of cases granted parole took place between 2004 and 2005. Of the 2,661 hearings in which a decision was made to either grant or deny parole in 2005, a total of 1,145 cases were granted parole (see Table 4). This represents a 10.0% increase in

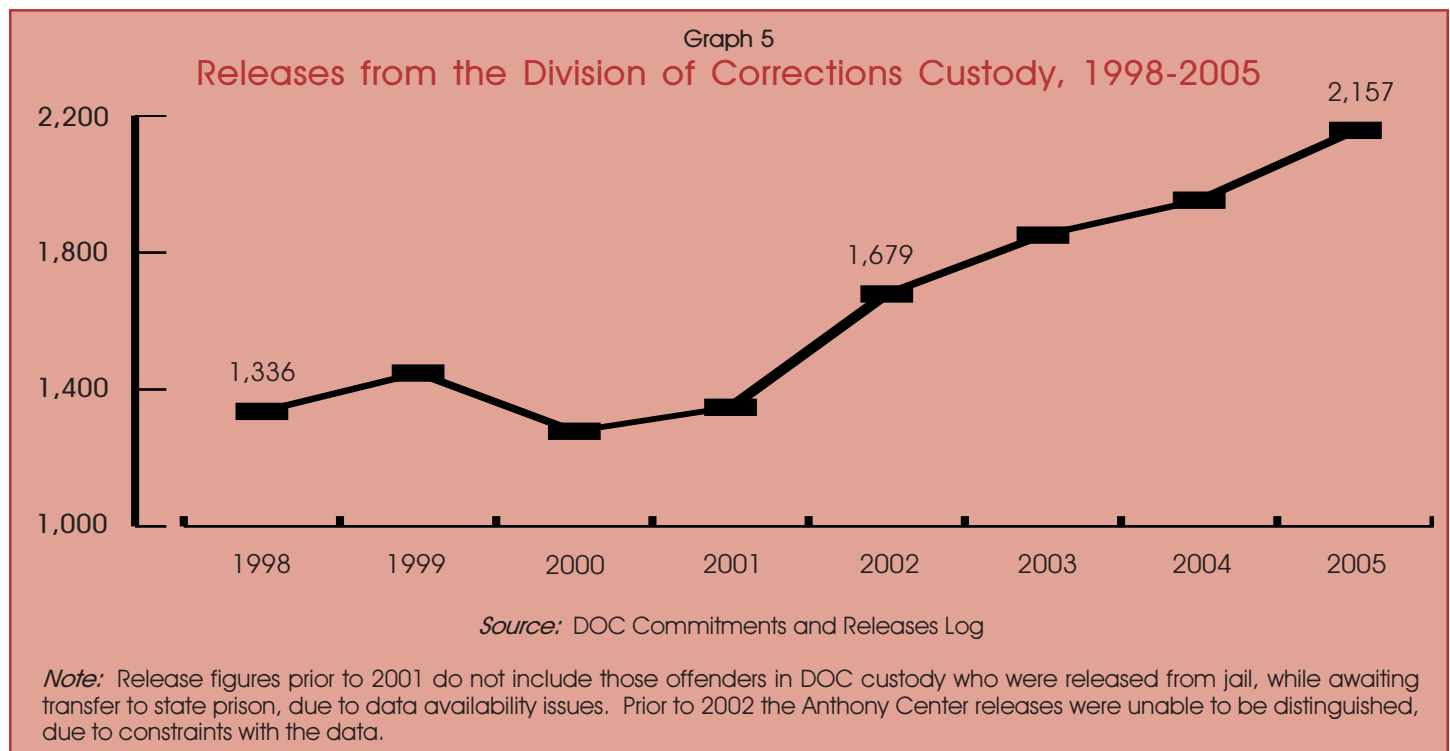


Table 4
Parole Decisions by Type and Year

Year	Denied	Granted	Total	% Granted
2000	1,226	679	1,905	35.6%
2001	1,514	492	2,006	24.5%
2002	1,414	723	2,137	33.8%
2003	1,483	838	2,321	36.1%
2004	1,625	799	2,424	33.0%
2005	1,516	1,145	2,661	43.0%

Source: DOC Commitments and Releases Log/WV Parole Board Activity Sheets

Note: The total column represents the sum of all cases in which the outcome was either a grant or denial of parole.

the number of cases granted parole between 2004 and 2005, and corresponds to the largest percent increase in the grant rate since 2000. These increases in the number of hearings being held by the parole board, coupled with an increase in the overall grant rate has resulted in a greater number of inmates being released to parole supervision in recent years.

Methodology

This final section of the update describes the methods utilized in the production of this report. The data sources and providers are described in detail. The development of the offense categories are discussed. Definitions and calculations necessary for the interpretation of the findings are also addressed.

Data Sources

National Corrections Reporting Program “NCRP” (1998-2004).

NCRP admission and release data are used to describe the inmates who are entering and exiting from DOC facilities. Descriptive analyses are conducted on these data and then imported into the forecast simulation model, along with average maximum sentences and length of stay calculations. The NCRP forms are collected from each DOC institution and entered by the DOC Central Office.

Automated Inmate Information Tracking System “Tracking” (1995-2004).

Data obtained from this tracking system are used to describe the inmates who currently reside in the physical custody of DOC. Descriptive analyses and sentencing calculations are conducted on these data and imported into the forecast simulation model. DOC institutional staff members use the data collected through this tracking system to manage the prison population.

Inmate Management Information System “IMIS” (2005).

The data extracted from IMIS are used in the same manner as the tracking data, descriptive analyses and sentencing calculations are conducted. This is a new automated system that replaced the older “tracking” system described above. The IMIS system became

effective in February 2005 and contains all of the information previously collected by the “tracking” system, as well as additional data. The data access and transfer capabilities of IMIS are greatly enhanced over the previous Automated Inmate Information Tracking System.

Commitments and Releases Log “CRL” (1998-2005). The data from the CRL are used to monitor the trends in commitments to and releases from DOC custody. The database includes information on all inmates sentenced to DOC including the granting and denial of parole, regardless of their physical location. This information is collected by the Division of Corrections Central Office from the facilities housing DOC inmates in a monthly report titled “Monthly Report of Activities.”

End-of-Month Log “EML” (1998-2005). The data contained in the EML includes the number of inmates in DOC custody at the end of each month. These data are used to monitor the performance of the forecast, and are used to calculate the percent difference between the forecast and the actual correctional population. The information is submitted to the Central Office by each institution housing DOC inmates.

WV Parole Board Activity Sheets (2002-2005). The processing of all hearings considered by the parole board is tracked on a monthly basis. These activity sheets break the total number of hearings considered by the outcome and place of the interview. The total decisions made, number of parole violation hearings conducted, and executive clemency reports are all tracked on these monthly activity sheets. Yearly activity sheets are completed at

the end of the year. This information is submitted to DOC and the CJSAC by the WV Parole Board.

“Prisoners in 2004.” October 2005, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.

Formation of Offense Categories

Specific offense categories form the basis for all of the analyses contained in this report. These offense categories are murder, sex crimes, robbery, assault, burglary, property, drug, DUI, and “other” offenses. Included within each category are any attempts, conspiracy, and or aiding/abetting to commit the identified offenses.

Each offender’s most serious offense was used to construct the categories. For the admission and release data, National Crime Reporting Program (NCRP) codes were used to identify the most serious offense committed, which was then collapsed into the appropriate offense category. Most serious offense is predetermined in data files for the confined population. A description of the individual offenses that comprise each of the categories is provided below:

Murder: 1st–2nd degree murder, voluntary/involuntary/vehicular manslaughter, DUI with death, child abuse/neglect resulting in death, and habitual offenders.

Sex crimes: 1st–3rd degree sexual assault, 1st–3rd degree sexual abuse, forcible rape, sexual abuse by parent/guardian/custodian, incest, lewd acts with children, failure to register as a sex offender, and other sexual assaults.

Robbery: Aggravated/unaggravated robbery, armed/unarmed robbery, 1st

degree robbery with physical violence, and weapons specification.

Assault: Malicious/unlawful assault and wounding, aggravated assault, domestic battery, extortion, kidnapping/abduction, and child abuse/neglect with injury.

Burglary: Burglary, breaking and entering, and entering without breaking.

Property: 1st–3rd arson, fraud, false pretenses, grand larceny, petit larceny, 3rd offense shoplifting, possessing/receiving/transferring stolen property, forgery, uttering, counterfeiting, and embezzlement.

Drug: Manufacturing/delivering/selling/possessing drugs, and obtaining drugs by false pretenses.

DUI: 3rd offense DUI and fleeing vehicle while DUI.

Other: Attempt/conspiracy to commit a felony, aiding and abetting a felony, accessory before the fact, wanton endangerment, weapons offenses, escape, obstruction, failure to appear, failure to pay child support, pimping/prostitution, identity theft, intimidation of judicial officer/witness, violation of civil rights, minor traffic offenses, driving on suspended/revoked license, and photographing/distributing/possessing child pornography.

Definitions and Calculations

Correctional Population. The 2004 correctional population forecast referred to in this update report includes inmates sentenced to Anthony Center, and diagnostic inmates. Also, included are offenders committed to the Division of Corrections who are housed in local or regional jails. These

DOC inmate populations are included in the forecast projections and other calculations unless otherwise noted.

Anthony Correctional Center.

Offenders sentenced to the Anthony Correctional Center (ACC) have a shorter length of stay, as compared to other DOC facilities. Young offenders are typically sentenced to 6 months to two years. Given that this population is handled differently from the general population of inmates, offenders sentenced to the Anthony Correctional Center are separated from the general population in some analyses.

Diagnostics. These offenders can be sentenced to 60 days for a diagnostic evaluation.

Commitments. This term is used to describe the number of offenders that are ordered by the court to the custody of the Division of Corrections. Commitments include all offenders sentenced to DOC custody, including those who may be housed in regional

jails awaiting transfer to a DOC facility.

Admissions. This term refers to offenders who are sentenced to a DOC facility and physically enter a DOC facility. Admissions differ from commitments in that they do not include inmates housed in regional jails pending transfer to a DOC facility.

Absolute Percent Difference. The difference between two values (forecasted and actual population) represented by percent with the negative values removed. This allows for the magnitude of the difference between the two values to be presented.

Average Annual Growth Rates. The average annual growth rate is calculated by summing or adding the annual growth rates for each year over a span of time. This number is then divided by the total number of years in the given time frame.

Average Maximum Sentence. This is a conversion of the total maximum

sentence given for all offenses into months. Anthony Center and diagnostic populations are not included in the calculation of the average maximum sentence length. Maximum sentences that exceeded 1,000 months or more were due to methodological considerations and for comparison purposes to previous forecasts.

Parole Decision Rates. The parole decision rates are calculated by taking the total number of cases granted and dividing that by the total number of all decisions to either grant or deny parole.

Table 5
Number of Admissions by Type of Offense and Year

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Murder	81	30	48	49	40	71	91
Sex Crimes	142	100	107	130	93	125	163
Robbery	76	40	38	59	66	96	99
Assault	112	95	89	106	96	112	127
Burglary	152	117	142	209	179	229	269
Property	173	182	152	217	247	333	334
Drug	170	146	131	138	188	223	252
DUI	170	194	175	178	183	149	160
Other	45	82	61	85	62	102	111
Total	1,121	997	943	1,172	1,197	1,440	1,606

Source: NCRP Admission Reports

Note: Those admitted for parole revocations are included in accordance with the data provided, for 2002-2004. Parole revocations are not reported in this table for 1998-2000. Anthony Center inmates are not included in these figures. In 1999, there were 11 missing cases. For 2001, there was one missing case. In 2002, there were 43 missing cases. There are no diagnostic inmates in the 2003 or 2004 figures. Minor differences in the total number of cases reported here may exist due to missing data. Totals represented here were compiled through a historical search.

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